



May 26, 2020

Along with the other residents of our countries, we continue to move cautiously forward. This week, in accordance with diocesan or archdiocesan guidelines, Sisters began to experience the joy of resuming community life through celebration of the Mass. At Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Convent in Livonia, Michigan, on the Feast of St. Felix of Cantalice, our patron, Mass was celebrated with social distancing and wearing masks. Sisters received the Eucharist dropped into their palms. It was a tremendous blessing for the 25% of Sisters who could attend, based on Archdiocese of Detroit guidelines on the number of people who could be present in the chapel.

The majority of Sisters in our larger convents continue to participate in daily Mass via closed-circuit television, regular television channels or on other electronic devices, as well as partake of spiritual Holy Communion. We all look forward, as each diocese allows, to gathering once again in our chapels for celebration of the Eucharist which is such an integral part of our religious life as Felician Sisters.

Even some Sisters whose archdioceses are not prepared to begin Mass received a blessing: At Immaculate Conception Convent in Lodi, New Jersey, the pastor of a nearby parish brought a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament, passing slowly along the drive in a truck, blessed the Sisters, who stood six feet apart, wearing masks, along the drive, crying at the joy of the Eucharistic presence. And in Buffalo, 30-35 cars full of Sisters from nearby convents as far away as Dunkirk, as well as Associates, drove by with signs wishing those at Immaculate Heart of Mary and Blessed Mary Angela convents a Happy St. Felix Day, serenading them with "We'll Go a Long, Long Way Together."

These events and gradual changes are a boost to the spiritual, psychological and emotional health of our Sisters, and we are deeply grateful for them.

We remain vigilant, using the graduated guidelines shared last week according to the status of each of our nearly 60 convents. We had no deaths, and continent-wide, one Sister and one employee tested positive in the last week. We are coming to life, in our own creative ways and in accord with the essentials of our community traditions, along with continuing to reverence federal, state and local infection control directives.

Our Sisters and ministries that walk with those in need, including the poor and the unemployed, continue to adapt to the restrictions placed upon us by COVID-19 in order to serve without interruption in this time of increasing need. This week, Sisters at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Convent were featured on WDIV Local 4 television as they live among and help the needy in downtown Detroit.

We are grateful for your support and your prayers, and we ask you to join us as we continue to pray for those in our neighborhoods, as well as all those throughout the world who have been affected by the coronavirus.

Yours in Mary, our Lady of Hope,

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, Provincial Minister
and the Provincial Council Members
Felician Sisters of North America